

placing the protective covering into a disinfectant;  
placing the protective covering to be burned.

16. (new) The method of covering a dental instrument according to claim 14 further comprising  
sterilizing the dental instrument after the protective covering has been taken off.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 through 9 continue to be in the case.

New claims 10 through 16 are being submitted. New claims 10 through 16 are based on the specification as follows:

New Claim:	Specification location:
10	Page 4, lines 9 through 11
11	Page 4, lines 10 through 12
12	Page 4, lines 12 through 13
13	Page 4, lines 13 through 15
14	Page 4, lines 17 through 19
15	Page 4, lines 20 through 22
16	Page 4, lines 22 through 23.

The new claims are believed to define the present invention over the  
Fife reference.

Reconsideration of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

All claims as presently submitted are deemed to be in form for  
allowance and an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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